SONGS OF THE LATE RENAISSANCE

During the Renaissance people sang; they were not content merely to listen. There were no public concerts, and, of course, no radio or phonograph, which in our time have made it so easy to listen to music. The professional musicians in the Sixteenth and early Seventeenth Centuries sang motets and masses in church and madrigals at court ceremonies. Musically untrained people expressed themselves in simpler songs — the English canzonet or ballett, the French chanson, the German liedlein, the Italian villanella and the Spanish villancico.

SONGS OF THE LATE RENAISSANCE presents some of the simpler part-songs of the late Sixteenth and early Seventeenth Centuries. These songs deal with nature, love and sometimes with philosophical ideas. They are simply constructed, frequently employing consecutive triads, avoided by the more sophisticated composers. Since many of them were set for three or four equal voices they provide an interesting contrast to the four part (SATB) texture which dominated the choral music of the late Renaissance.

Tempo indications and dynamic markings are the editor's, since such markings did not come into general use until well after the Renaissance.

It is recommended that the songs of other than English origin be sung in their original languages whenever possible.

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PALESTRINA
Domine Fili Unigenite

The Series, SONGS OF THE LATE RENAISSANCE, has been almost entirely confined to secular music. In this instance, an example of Palestrina's sacred music is introduced to show how Late Renaissance composers occasionally turned to the timbre of Treble voices in contrast to the customary mixed-voice texture. This excerpt from a four-part Mass is in its original setting for two Sopranos and an Alto.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF TEXT

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.

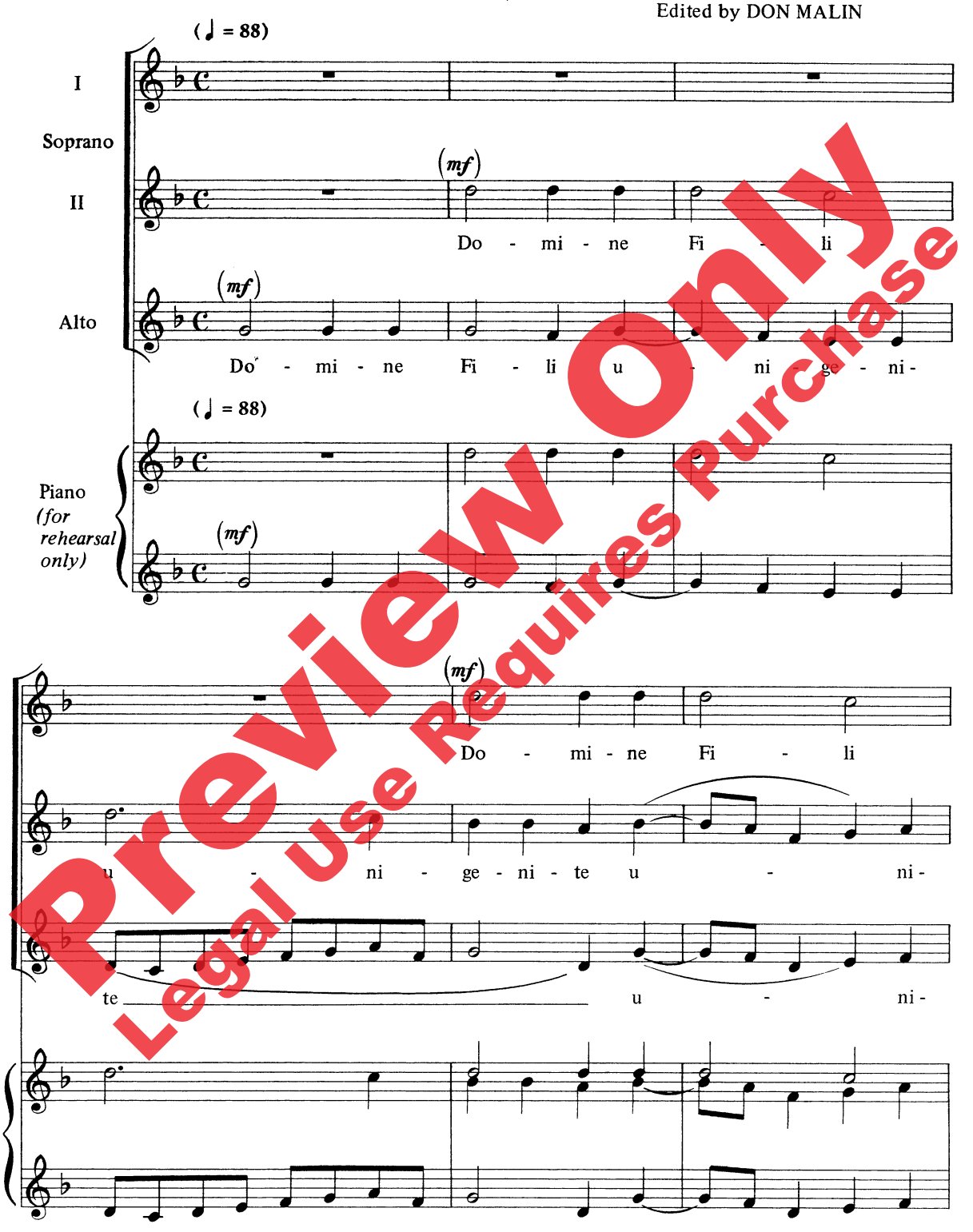
OCT 2429

Domine Fili Unigenite

From the "Missa Primi Toni"
For S.S.A., Unaccompanied

Duration: 2 min., 15 sec.

GIOVANNI PIERLUIGI PALESTRINA
(1525-1594)
Edited by DON MALIN



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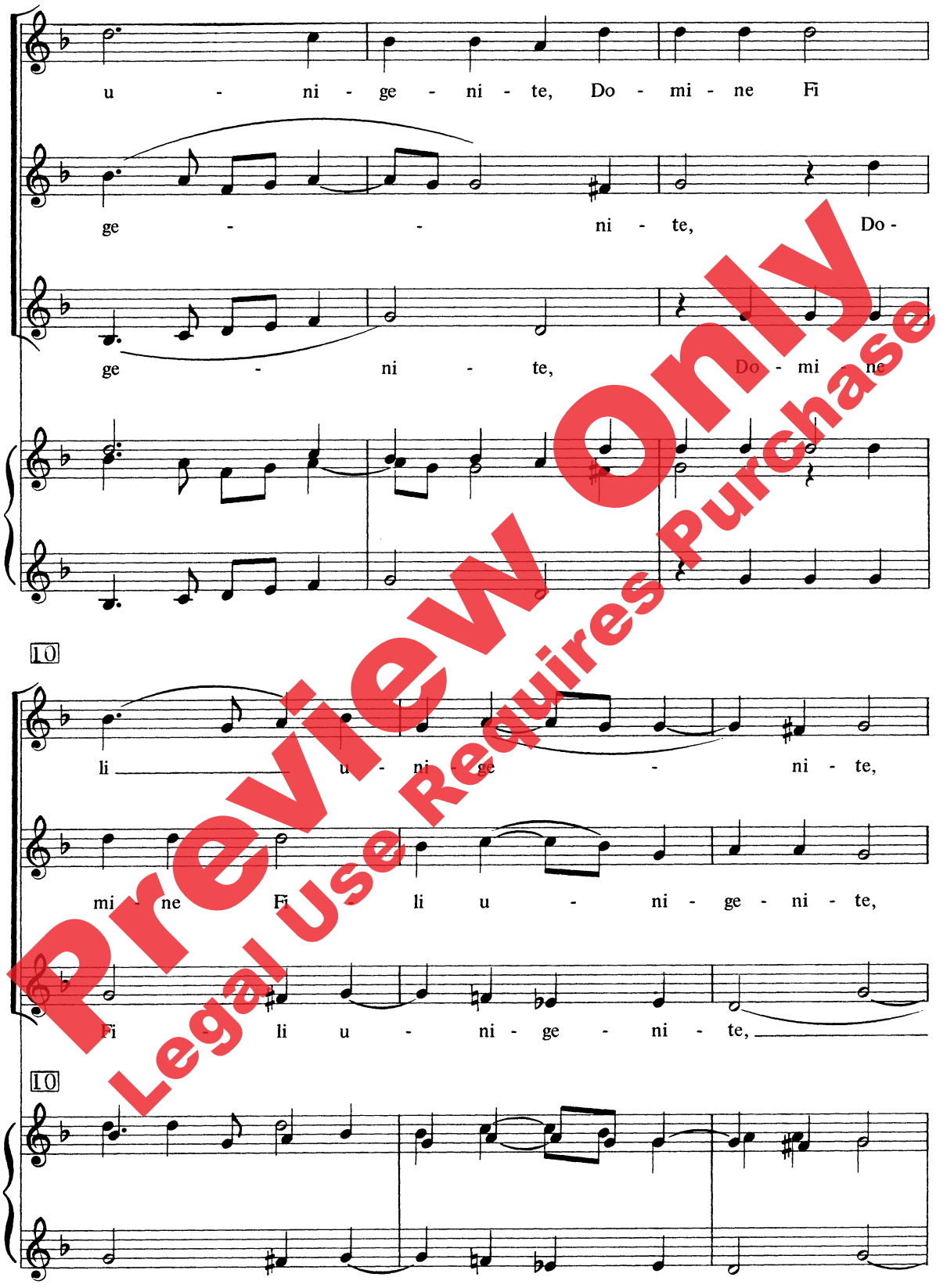

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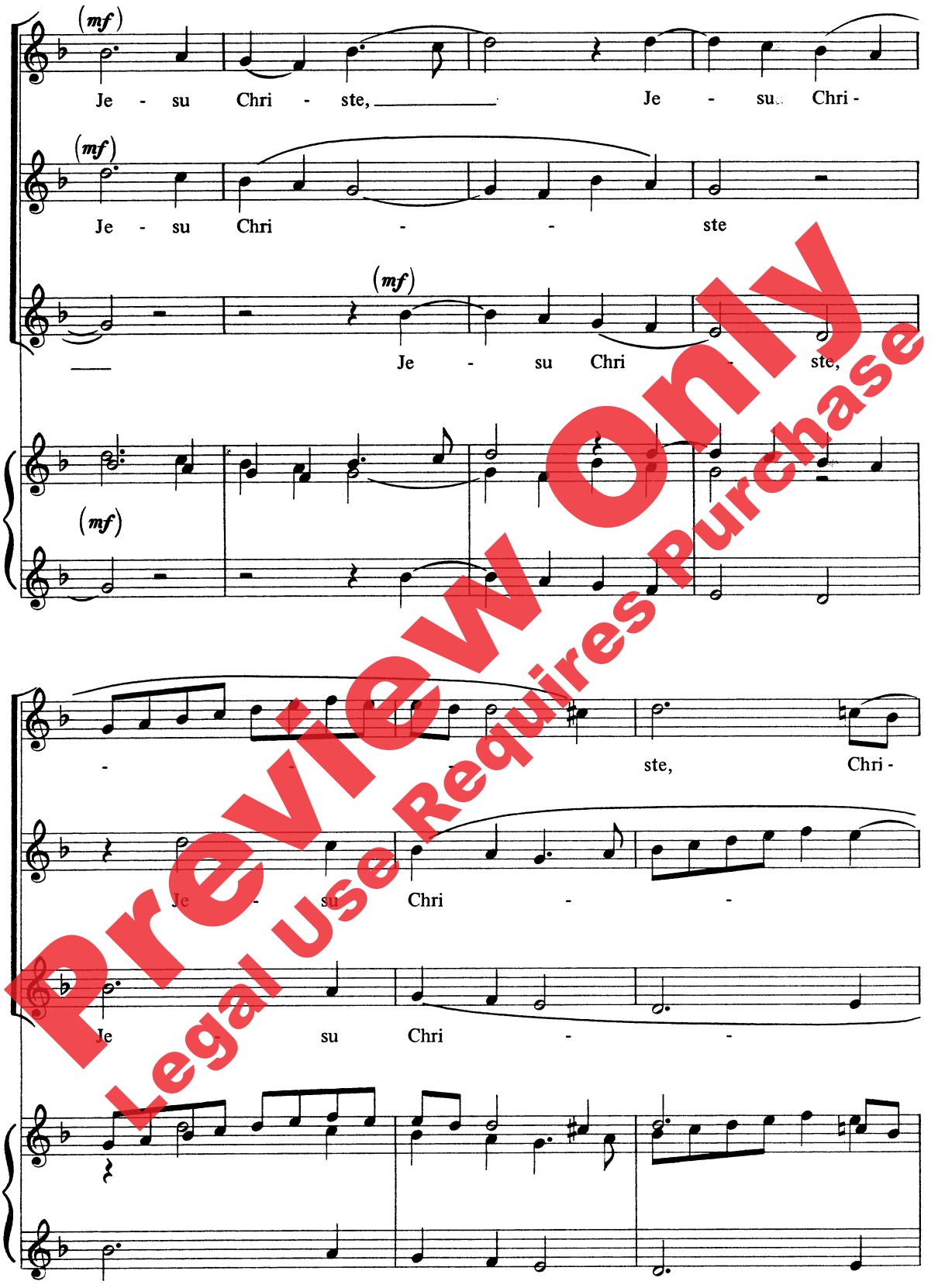

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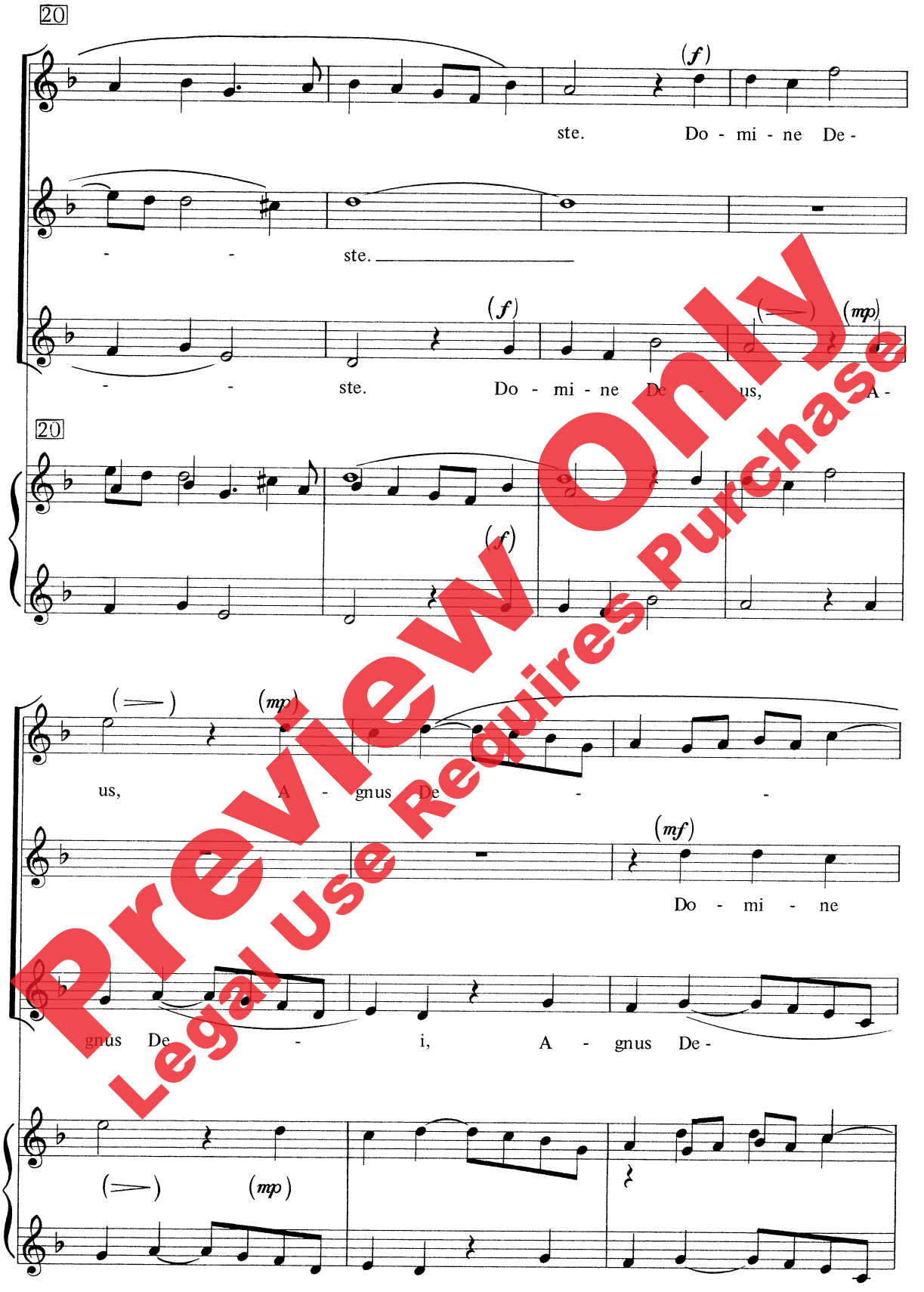

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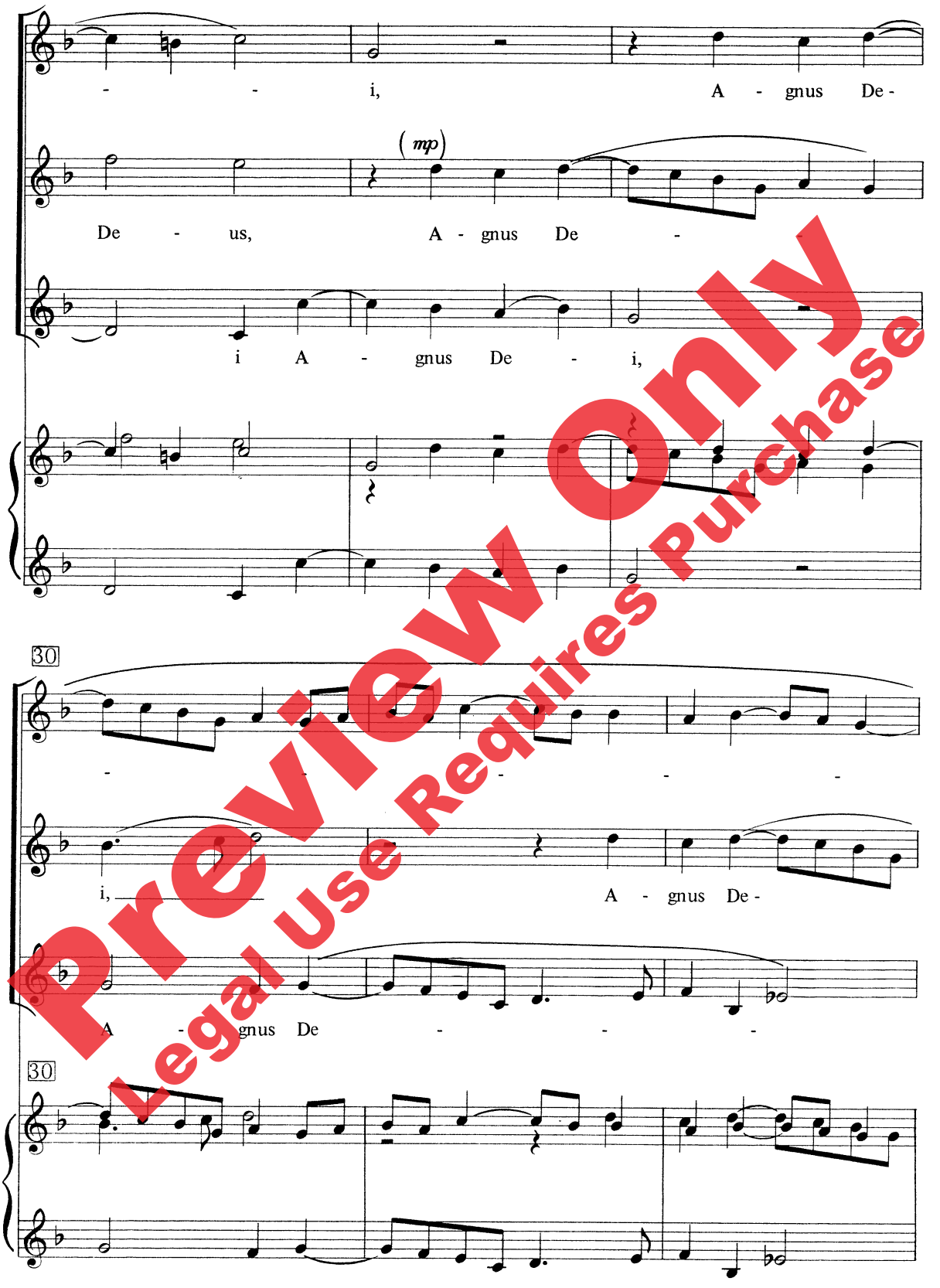

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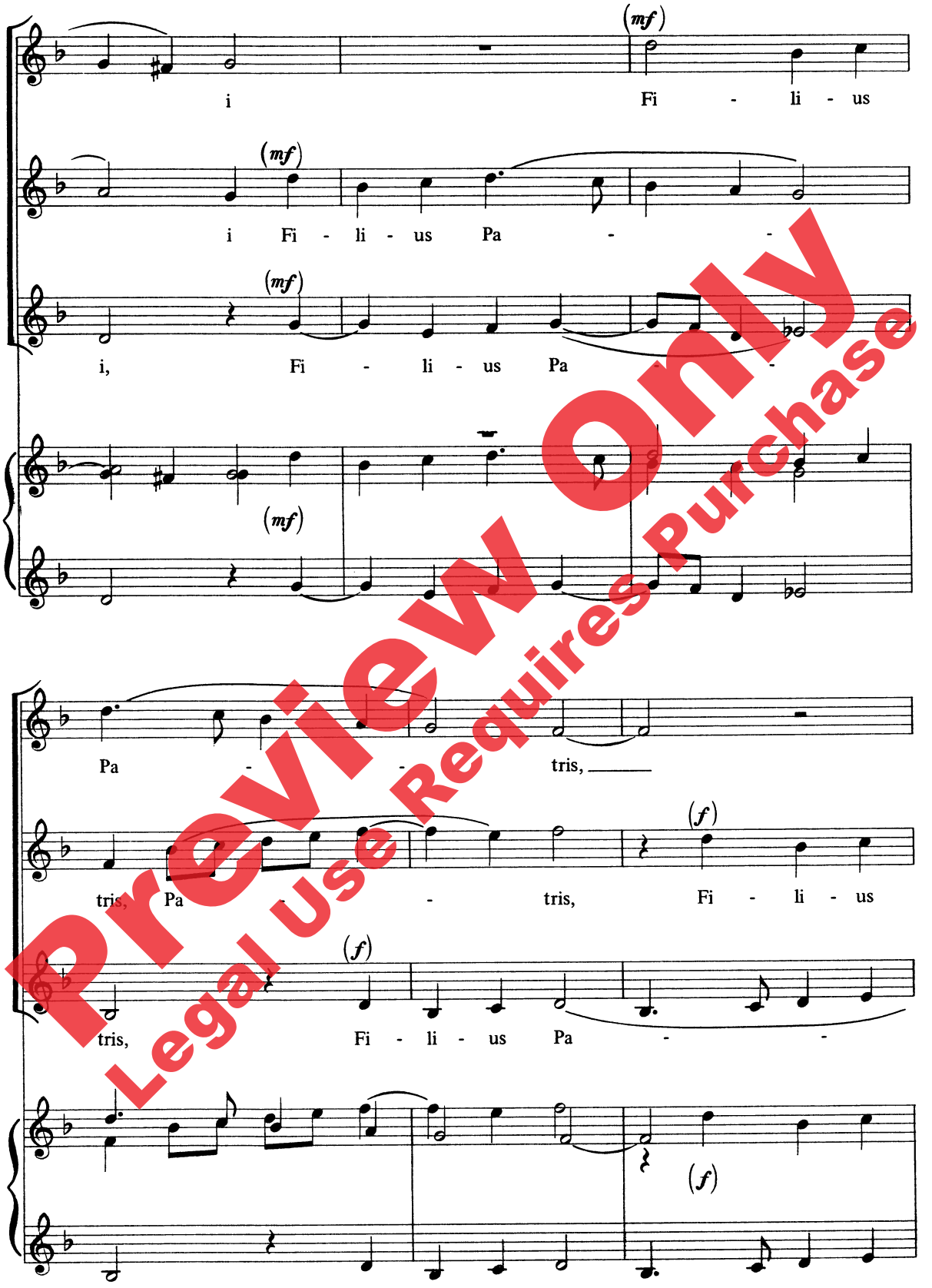

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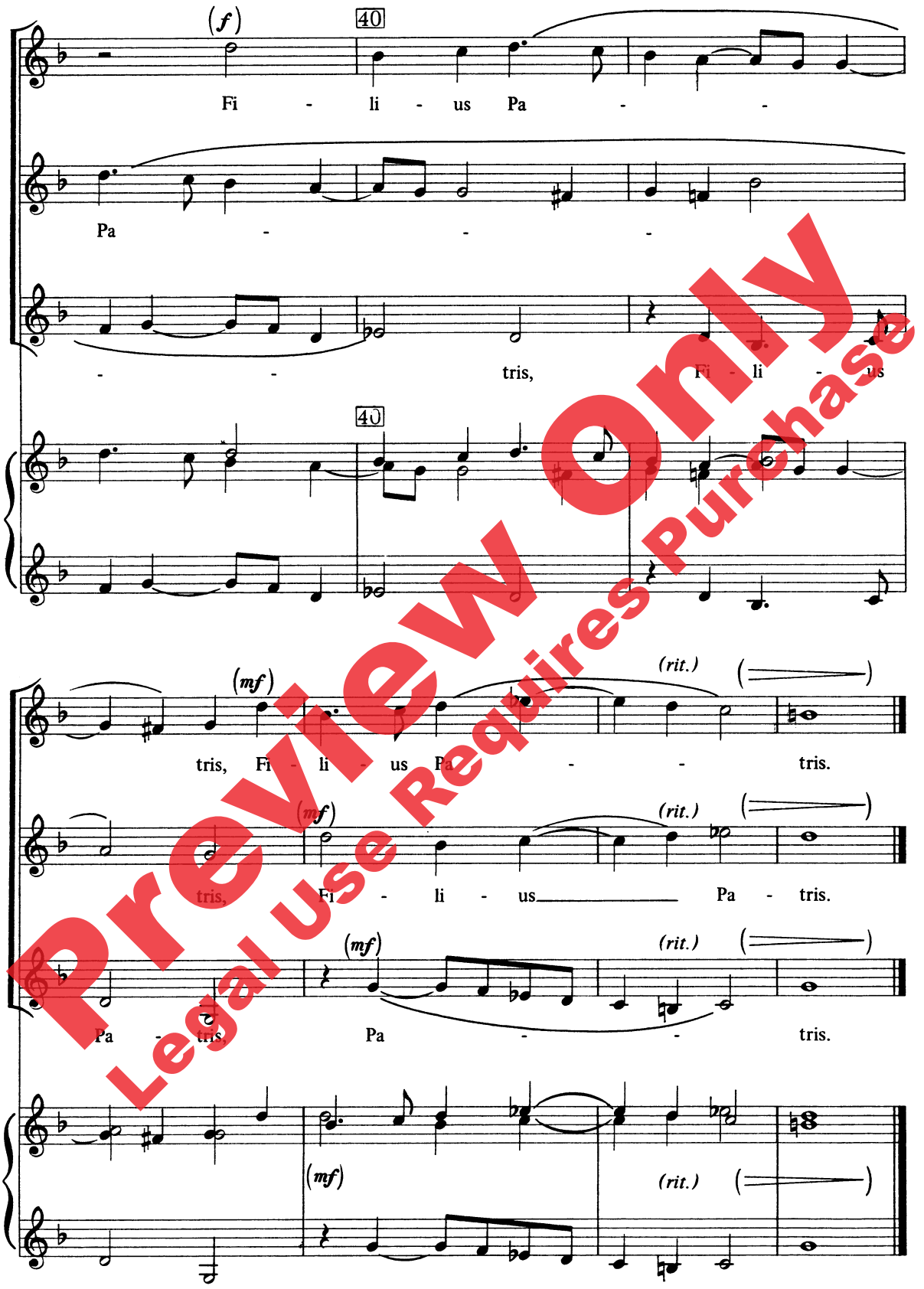

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